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MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

Young musicians share song of Jesus

By Tony Martin
Associate Editor

Among the best-kept "secrets" in Mississippi Baptist life are the Young Musicians camps, held for two consecutive weeks each summer on the campus of Baptist-affiliated Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain. This summer the camps were held July 14-18 and July 21-25.

The camps are open to students who have completed third through fifth grades. During the first week of camp, enrollment was 50 children with a total of 74 attending. The second week's projected enrollment was 75 children and a total of 115.

"We've been sponsoring Young Musicians camp since 1978," said Sarah Talley, contract consultant in the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

"We've been at Blue Mountain College for about 25 years."

"We try to share the song of Jesus," Talley continued. "This age group is a prime time for salvation for children. The camp has a musical emphasis, because music speaks to the soul."

Monday at camp includes registration, supper, and the first of many rehearsals. "The children have never seen the music they perform," said Talley, "and they completely memorize it in three days."

The first day continues with worship held, as are many of the other camp activities, in Lowrey Memorial Church next to the Blue Mountain College campus. Following worship is the nightly "feature," which might be faculty follies, in which camp faculty perform, or a talent show by the campers.

The schedule for Tuesday and Wednesday is the same, with a



REHEARSING FOR EXCELLENCE — Susan Messer (standing) of Decatur, Georgia, prepares campers for their concert on the final night of Young Musicians Camp at Blue Mountain College July 14-18. (Photo by Tony Martin)

worship service following breakfast, music theory classes, rehearsals, another class, and lunch. Morning classes included Sing His Story (salvation); Sing My Story (testimony); and Sing the Story (Missions).

"Besides the musical emphasis, we always schedule three spiritual emphasis classes each week, and one is always on the plan of salvation," said Talley.

After lunch comes recreation. This creative time includes a host of different electives for the campers, which include options from handbells, signing, and creative movement to crafts, making sophisticated paper airplanes, and baking a "thunder cake."

Campers had ample opportunity to enjoy the campus pool, and one very popular activity was the enormous Super Slide, a long yellow plastic slip 'n

slide that stretched down the hill from the campus administration building. The slide is wet down with a fire hose and lubricated with baby oil.

"It's more than just a music camp," said Talley. "We do have a lot of fun."

Thursday, the final full day, includes many of the activities, rehearsals, and recreation of the previous two days. The highlight of the day comes when the campers present the music they've learned in a concert, which is open to the public. Several parents, relatives, and friends of the campers attended.

As with all camps, goodbyes are eventually said, promises to keep in touch are made, and campers depart for home.

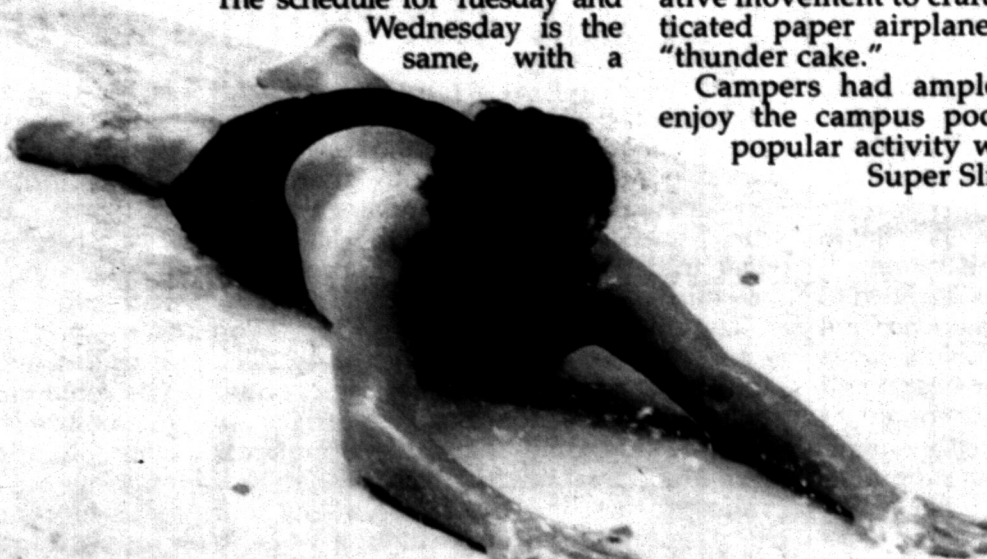
The camp faculty for the first week included Kristy Brumfield, Yazoo City; Pamela Finch, Petal; LuAnne Ford, Booneville; Shirley Gustine, Columbus; Michele Smith, New Albany; and Pam Tanner, Belden.

Camp pastor was Tony Martin, associate editor of The Baptist Record at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson. Joey Williams, Longview Point Church, Hernando, was worship leader, and Tim Moak, Broadmoor Church, Madison, was accompanist.

Susan Messer, of Decatur, Georgia, was guest director and clinician. The second of week of camp had not been concluded at press time.

"Camp is just a way to reach the hearts and minds of children," stated Talley.

Dates for the 2009 Young Musicians Camp are July 13-17 and July 20-24. For more information, contact Sarah Talley at (601) 292-3267 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 267. Email: stalley@mbcb.org.



SLIP-SLIDING AWAY — A camper at the Young Musicians Camp at Blue Mountain College July 14-18 enjoys the "Super Slide" part of the recreational offerings at the camp sponsored by the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. (Photo by Tony Martin)

Return to Sender



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The loss of Greg Gomez on July 5, on a remote mountain road in Peru has been startling. As college students respond to the call of missions to serve and give of themselves, only visions of helping others and sharing one's faith, at first, come to mind. Exotic locations add appeal, as well as the lure of experiencing other cultures and the adventure of it all.

When the Peruvian national van driver fell asleep at the wheel that day, all of that changed. Greg was serving as a Mississippi Baptist student summer missionary on an International Mission Board project in Peru. His Baptist Student Union (BSU) at Ole Miss had played a key part in helping prepare him to go, and Greg was ready.

This past Friday, I had the privilege of attending Greg's funeral near his home of Glen Carbon, IL. As Ole Miss BSU Director Morris Baker, Associate Director Liz Thurmond, and I launched out on the eight-hour drive from Jackson. I knew it was important for us to go, though I did not fully know what to expect.

What we experienced was the wonderful celebration of a life well-lived.

During the service, several people who were close to Greg shared memories and experiences. Morris Baker noted that Greg was a rare student, and not only because of his faithfulness as a BSU leader for four years. He recalled how Greg would, almost without fail, call, e-mail or text him a message each week, sharing words of affirmation or telling what God had said to him and was doing in his life as a result of his being in that worship experience. Greg seemed to always be listening for God's voice.

Greg's sister April talked about how he had a consistent passion to live his faith wherever he was. She described Greg as, "hard-wired to share the Gospel." He did that well in all aspects of life at Ole Miss, as noted by more than forty of his fraternity brothers who attended the funeral.

Greg had served the Ole Miss Chapter of Phi Kappa Psi as vice-president and chaplain. The fraternity web site read, in part, "With his friendship, brotherhood and most importantly, his faith, Greg inspired everyone to be a better person and served as an exemplary role model for his brothers."

April went on to urge those present who were not believers to talk with her and her family about this Jesus that Greg had died serving.

Greg's grandfather Gregorio Gomez, Jr., recalled how he and Greg's grandmother had recently traveled to Oxford in May for Greg's graduation in mechanical engineering. He said that Greg was eager to show them around the campus, showing them where he had lived as a freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior. He went on to show him other important places including the building where he had taken many of his engineering courses.

Gregory Gomez IV



October 13, 1985

July 5, 2008

Greg's grandfather then shared how he imagined his own entry into heaven one day, with Greg awaiting him, ready to show him around God's heaven.

He closed with a recollection of one of the last e-mails he had gotten from Greg, in which Greg shared his enthusiasm about the work they were doing in Peru. At the end of that e-mail, after he typed his name, he wrote the simple phrase, "Sending the Light."

Greg understood that God was using him to send the Light. In another communication, Greg had said, "We have been

given the greatest Gift known to man, and this region needs to hear it."

Greg's home pastor Tim Lewis closed the funeral service with a personal account of how Greg had ministered to him a couple of years ago when he was at a low point in life and ministry. Greg poked his head into the pastor's office, asking for a moment of his time. He stepped in only to tell him that he loved him, asking if he could pray for him. Tim said it was such a blessing to him at a key time in his life and ministry.

Greg's pastor went on to share a story Greg's mother Elida Gomez had told him about how she and Greg had attended a funeral together a couple of years ago. During that experience, she indicated that Greg had observed that they should really put a label on the casket of every believer saying, "Return to Sender," since they were actually going back to their Creator.

As I sat and listened to this story, suddenly the bumper sticker-like label on the bottom front of Greg's casket in bold red script letters — "Return to Sender" — made enormous sense to me. What a striking, bold tribute to his belief!

More than ten days before, I received the call from the International Mission Board, letting me know of this terrible tragedy. At the time I knew Greg's parents were being made aware, and I imagined then what lay ahead for them. What I saw near Glen Carbon, IL, was one of the strongest testimonials of a life well-lived by a young man who had everything to live for and so much to give. Yet, in the midst of all of his success, he chose to also follow Christ to what he knew as "the ends of the earth," in Peru — and, like thousands of other Mississippi BSU college students, he heard and responded to the call of God to go and to serve.

One week before his death, Greg and more than fifty other student missionaries serving in Peru gathered for a mid-summer retreat. As they were closing their time together and preparing to go back to their fields of service, Greg was asked to share a verse of Scripture. This is what he chose to read:

And now, behold, bound in spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there (Acts 20:22).

Greg knew his mission, understood his calling, and was committed to sending the Light. Now, we all honor his desire as we "Return to Sender."

Ca. voters have final say on homosexual marriage

SAN FRANCISCO (BP and local reports) — Two months after issuing its landmark decision in favor of homosexual marriage, the California Supreme Court handed conservatives a victory July 16 by allowing a proposed constitutional marriage amendment to stay on the November ballot in that state.

Without comment the justices declined to hear a lawsuit brought by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), homosexual rights group Lambda Legal, and other liberal and homosexual activist groups that sought to prevent the initiative — which easily qualified for the ballot with 1.1 million submitted signatures — from going before voters.

Some of the legal arguments were viewed as long shots but pro-family attorneys, having lost confidence in the justices after the May ruling that opened the door to homosexual marriages, remained at least

somewhat concerned about what the court might do. The liberal groups argued that the amendment would "revise" the constitution and take away constitutionally guaranteed fundamental rights. Such fundamental revisions cannot be placed on the ballot via voter initiative and must be approved by two-thirds of the state legislature.

The amendment is known as Proposition 8, and if passed would reverse the 4-3 decision that made California only the second state to recognize homosexual marriage.

"Time and time again, the opponents have attempted to circumvent the democratic process, but the fact remains that the people of California have a right to vote on this issue," said Ron Prentice, chairman of the ProtectMarriage.com coalition, the group behind Proposition 8.

"The momentum for the amendment

is nothing short of phenomenal," Chris Clark, pastor of East Clairemont Southern Baptist Church in San Diego, told Baptist Press. "...[The conference call] was a very moving experience."

On July 30, amendment supporters will host a unique three-state conference call with conservatives in Arizona and Florida, two states that also will have marriage amendments on the ballot in November. The conference call will focus on strategies to mobilize churches. It also will seek "three-state solidarity" on the issue of homosexual marriage, an e-mail announcement says.

Conference call organizers are asking churches in Arizona and Florida to consider being a host site for the call, which begins at 1 p.m. eastern time. Further information is available by calling (619) 415-5453.

Study: Regular church attendance positive

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Men who attend religious services regularly are more likely to have happy and stable marriages, more likely to be involved with their children and less likely to divorce, new research says.

Additionally, mothers who attend church weekly are half as likely to have children out of wedlock, the study says.

The research by the University of Virginia's W. Bradford Wilcox analyzed data from three national surveys: the General Social Survey, the National Survey of Families and Households, and the National Survey of Family Growth. The research also drew partially from data in Wilcox's book, *Soft Patriarchs*, New Men: How Christianity Shapes Fathers and Husbands.

"[R]eligious men (and their wives) enjoy happier marriages, they are less likely to father a child outside of wedlock, and they are more likely to take an active and affectionate approach to child rearing, compared to secular or nominally religious men," Wilcox wrote. "Therefore, any effort to strengthen men's ties to their children and families must acknowledge and incorporate the important role that religious institutions play in directing men's hearts toward home."

The research, titled *Is Religion An Answer? Marriage, Fatherhood, and the Male Problematic*, was posted on the website of The Center for

Marriage and Families in June. It was commissioned by the National Fatherhood Initiative.

The research paper noted that over the past 50 years large numbers of men have become disconnected from family life. The "percentage of children living in father-absent homes rose from 11% in 1960 to 27% in 2000," the paper said. Additionally, 38.5% of babies in 2006 were born out of wedlock, it said.

The breakdown of marriage, the sexual revolution, declining real wages, and the rise of individualism all have contributed to distancing men from their families, the research said. Religion, though, can play a role in bringing men closer to their families, it said. The research found that:

- 70% of husbands "who attend church regularly report they are 'very happy' in their marriages," compared to "59% of husbands who rarely or never attend church."

- Men and women who attended religious services several times a month or more "were approximately 35% less likely to divorce between 1988 and 1993, compared to their married peers who rarely or never attended religious services."



- Fathers who attend church several times a month or more "devote at least two hours a week more in youth-related activities," "are significantly more likely to engage in one-on-one activities with their school-age children" and "are also at least 65% more likely to report praising and hugging their children very often" compared to fathers who don't any religious affiliation.

- Mothers "who attend church weekly or more are about half as likely to have a child outside of wedlock, compared to mothers who attend church less often or never."

Marriages are strongest when the husband and wife attend religious services together, the research said.

"This finding is important because men, women, and children who are fortunate enough to live in families centered around high-quality, stable marriages enjoy a range of benefits: better health, greater wealth, and more happiness than their peers," Wilcox wrote. "Thus, insofar as this brief finds that religion binds husbands to their wives in stronger marriages in the United States, it also suggests that religion indirectly fosters the physical, economic, and emotional well-

being of adults and children."

Why does religion have such a positive impact on fathers and families? The paper cited four reasons. Churches and religious institutions teach moral responsibility to fathers, provide fathers with opportunities, such as youth groups, to spend time with their children and families, offer encouragement and advice on being an effective parent; and provide a "meaningful order" to life, thereby helping fathers "deal constructively" with trials, such as unemployment and death.

The research also cited data showing that cohabitation — that is, couples living together before marriage — do not provide stability.

"Men living in cohabiting unions are unlikely to stick around and develop abiding ties to their children, because cohabiting unions are much less likely than marriages to endure," Wilcox wrote. "One study found that a child born to a cohabiting couple had a 50% risk that her parents would part in her first five years of life; by contrast, a child born to a married couple had only a 15% risk that her parents would part in her first five years."

Christians homeless

BEIJING (BP) — A leader among China's unregistered house churches and his wife have been forced from their home and hounded from shelter to shelter by Chinese authorities since July 6, according to the human rights group China Aid Association (www.chinaaid.org). Bike Zhang, chairman of the Federation House Church and his wife Xie Fenglan were forced to leave their home in Beijing's Chaoyang district by officials of the Public Security Bureau, according to a China Aid Association report July 18. At last report, Zhang and his wife were living on the streets, unable to find shelter. When the China Aid Association asked why the couple was being treated in that manner, they were told, "Because Bike Zhang met the Americans and destroyed the harmony of the Beijing Olympic Games." Another Chinese Protestant, Shi Weihai, remains in the custody of Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau on the grounds that he is a "dangerous religious element," the China Aid Association said. Weihai is married with two young daughters, one of whom is an American citizen. Shi, a Christian publisher, has been held for four months. He was arrested in November 2007 for "illegal business practices" but released in January after authorities determined there was insufficient evidence to support the charge. He was re-arrested March 19 for allegedly printing unauthorized Bibles and Christian literature. The China Aid Association "urges the international community and those concerned to voice their objection of these acts to the Chinese government," Fu said. The Chinese ambassador to the United States, Zhou Wenzhong, can be addressed at: Embassy of People's Republic of China, 2201 Wisconsin Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007. The telephone number for the embassy is 202-328-2500. The e-mail address is chinaembassy_us@fmprc.gov.cn.

Looking back

10 years ago

James R. "Jim" Futral, pastor of Broadmoor Church, Jackson, is unanimously elected by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board to serve as executive director-treasurer of the state's largest religious denomination.

20 years ago

Baptist Memorial Hospital opens Desoto County's first acute-care hospital. The \$20 million facility provides 100 acute care beds with a 30-bed rehabilitation center scheduled to open in October. It is the ninth regional facility owned and operated by BMH of Memphis.

50 years ago

John E. Barnes, pastor, Main Street Church, Hattiesburg, preaches a sermon in his pulpit challenging the Roman Catholic claim that the Bible is a Catholic book, gaining statewide attention.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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NO. 29



YOU CAN RESPOND
RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)

2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)

3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)

4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name. (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

BIBLIOCIPHER

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004
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HR OD DMC DK CEXC
VZCH, NEXFR DKK CER
SRIH UMNC KIDQ HDMI
KRRC KDI_X CRNCZQDJH
XOXZJNC CERQ.

ZMFR JZJR:KZSR

Clue: : O = G

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Isaiah Twenty-Four Eleven

KNOW BEFORE YOU BLOW

Emotions are gifts from God. We seem to enjoy and long for those emotions connected with joy and happiness, pleasure and delight more than we do some of the others. For instance, most of us would prefer that the emotions that swirl around sadness, grief, unhappiness, and anguish keep their distance. The fact is they too are gifts from God. They play a vital part in our human makeup.

Then there are those emotions that are connected with anger. The kind of emotion that revs us up, raises our blood pressure, and oftentimes makes us act out of character and even in destructive ways. Anger is also a gift. It is an aspect of the character of God, but for us it is important that we keep it under control. Anger can spiral out of control and be destructive hurting us and those around us beyond anything we would have imagined.

Recently I was reminded again of how anger can rev a person up and push their actions beyond their thought process. I was on the road, had preached at a church, and had gotten to the motel where I was supposed to be staying after 11:00 p.m. By the time I checked-in and got to my room, it was getting late. I was tired and ready for some sleep. I had just laid down and started moving into that pre-sleep stage of relaxation when I heard yap, yap, yap that brought all of my senses into a full state of alert. Understand that this was not a bow-wow. It was a high-pitched sound of a little dog yapping at something. I had not done anything to stir him up but something had set him off and he was right next door to me.

I did not think that the motel where I was staying allowed dogs but for whatever reason good, bad, or otherwise the folks next door to me had theirs in the room. He barked for a little while and then quieted down. Actually, he was playing a game with me for he allowed me just enough time to doze off and then yap, yap, yap he started again. Now I had been through one small sleep cycle of a few minutes and was wide-awake thinking that this is not going to be a good night. He quieted down again but now I was struggling with going to sleep because I knew that as soon as I get there he was going to disrupt it. Finally, I dozed off. I did not keep a timetable and I am sure that it was longer than I thought it was, but after just a little while, I heard yap, yap, yap. I woke up again. In fact, throughout the night the little creature seemed to know whenever I got to the deepest part of my sleep cycle. He would start with his shrill little irritating voice and wake me up.

I am fairly confident that I slept more than I thought I did but it seemed like I was awake every little bit all during the night. In reality, it was probably just a few times that he woke me

with his well-planned yap. Honestly, during the waking moments I thought about how inconsiderate people can be to have a dog that interrupts people trying to sleep in their own motel rooms. I thought about the motel regulations and how the management should take action and straighten those folks out so I could get some rest. I thought about calling the desk and telling them of my plight. As the night wore on I moved from one level of anger to another sometimes just trying to suppress it and get some sleep and at other times giving in to it and wanting to bang on the wall. It is just one of the hazards of sometimes trying to create a home environment away from home. It just does not work.

Finally, the night was over, I got up, and as I went outside to get a paper, I saw the man who was staying in the room next to me carrying a sweet little innocent creature outside for a walk. It was just a little ole bitty handful of stuff. It looked like a mixed breed animal that was the result of crossing a rat with a cotton boll. My anger flamed again and I started to tell the man, "Do you realize that you kept me up all night because that little ole dog barked all night," but I didn't. I smiled and said, "Good morning." He went his way and I went mine.

As I got ready to head out that morning I was standing at the registration desk and he passed by me on his way to work or somewhere. The lady at the desk said to me, "I feel so sorry for him." I said, "You do! Why?" She said, "Well, they have been staying with us for a couple of weeks now. Their house was destroyed by a tornado. They lost everything they had. I mean everything. They came here and you can only imagine what it is like to move your family, what few belongings you have, and try to make a home out of a one-room hotel room. Here they are a man, his wife, kids, and a little yapping dog." I said to the lady at the desk, "Well that is terrible." She said, "I don't know what they are going to do, whether they will rebuild or get another place. They are trying to get it all together and figure out what to do." I wanted to run out the door, catch the guy, hug his neck, and say, "Man, I am sorry about what has happened to you and your family. If there is anything in the world that I can do to help you I will be more than happy to do it." However, he had disappeared.



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

My thoughts turned to the night before. A little bit of my sleep was disrupted by a yapping dog that had been displaced by a tornado that had wrecked and ruined the home and furnishings of an entire family. I was getting upset off and on during the night because of that pup. While neither the man nor his family knew anything about the anger that was kindled within me because of their little pup barking, what I was dealing with was so absolutely insignificant, unimportant, and even hard to mention compared to their struggles. While I prayed for them and their recovery, I also prayed

and thanked God for keeping my anger and upset feelings in check. Most of all I thanked the Lord for the blessing of keeping my mouth shut. I thought about that verse that James gave us in his little epistle, James 1:19. He said, "Wherefore my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to listen, slow to speak, and slow to wrath." Like with so many other things in life, we get the instructions turned around. We are commanded to have fast ears and slow tongues. We are far more likely to have slow ears and fast tongues.

Jesus experienced the full range of emotions that human beings have and yet they were always in proper place with proper response. Never did He have to say that He was so sorry that He got angry or that He wished He had not said that. While anger can work to our good and can push us to do heroic things, it is always wise to know before you blow.

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mbcb.org.

Blue Mountain College
FOUNDED 1873

*Building Champions
for Life*



What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

July 24, 2008

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

Pray this day for...

July 25 – August 7, 2008

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"My soul finds rest in God alone: my salvation comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation: he is my fortress. I will never be shaken."

Psalms 62:1-2

Pray for college student missionaries who will be ministering in various outreach efforts this summer. Pray especially for volunteers serving in the ministry booth July 25-27 in Asheville, N.C., during Beie Chere, the largest free street festival on the east coast.

(1) Flake's Formula for the Future, FBC, Richland, 9 a.m. - noon (SS); (2) FamilyFest on the Coast, 26th - 30th (WMU).

26

Area Preschool/Children's Choir Leadership Training, FBC, Columbia; Harrisburg BC, Tupelo.

2

(1) School PrayerWalk and Teachers Appreciation (WMU Emphasis); (2) Sixty students and sponsors are going to Dresden, Germany, to work with IMB missionaries July 28 - August 10. Pray that students and sponsors will experience God in unique ways and learn to have a heart for mission work.

Social Issues Emphasis: Child Abuse (CAC Emphasis); (2) Jack is an Air Force senior chaplain. His wing may be sent again in harm's way beginning January 2009. Pray for God's guidance and wisdom, God's safety and strength as they enter several months of uncertainty with regards to the future.

(1) Minister's Health Workshop, Waltham Association Office (P/LD); (2) Summer Missions Camp for Boys, Central Hills, 28th - 1st (MM); (3) Pray for outreach during the Ironman Triathlon in July in Lake Placid and during the August all-day Vacation Bible Camp at Lake Placid Church.

(1) Last Chance Camp, Central Hills, 4th - 8th (MM); (2) Tom is an Air National Guard chaplain serving in Alaska. Praise God for the four people Tom lead to know Jesus as he served in a military hospital in Germany that treats the wounded Afghanistan and Iraq military.

(1) Minister's Health Workshop, North Oxford BC, (P/LD); (2) George is an Army chaplain currently deployed in Iraq. He leads three weekly worship services for soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines. Pray for service members' spiritual renewal and that Christ would draw them closer.

Malcom and Melissa are MSC missionaries ministering to handicapped and disabled people. Melissa also serves as the children's director for Cross-Canyon Cowboy Church in Rendon, Texas. Pray for the new "Earn a Bible Program" as the 1st - 6th grade children learn Bible basics and are rewarded with a Bible of their own.

Jenny is a collegiate evangelism missionary working alongside Aletheia Church serving students in four college/universities. Pray that she will be effective in sharing her faith, seeing college students reached for Christ, grow, and become His followers.

(1) Baptist Building AT HOME DAYS; (2) Jim and Grace are church strengtheners with the West Virginia Convention. They minister to children in a community in the coalfields where there are drug problems. Pray for adult believer volunteers to help and witness to the families of the children.

Calvary Campus, Kentucky, formerly a 100-year-old Christian school, is being converted into a camp, conference, retreat and family life center for the people of the Appalachian Mountains. Pray for safety and productivity as mission teams come in this summer from all over the U.S. to renovate these facilities.

Noel is a church restart pastor at Pleasant Street Church, Maine. Pray that people will be drawn to the kingdom of God through their summer outreach programs. Pray that God will put volunteers and staff in touch with people who need the Gospel and those needing a church home.

Regional Discipleship Rallies

8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

• Southern Regional Rally (\$1 at the door)

Tuesday, August 26, at William Carey University

Rally: Lincoln Choral, Brookhaven

J. Dennis Daniels, Congregational/Pastoral Care Ministry at FBC, Jackson

BREAK-OUTS:

Fun Time with Kandi Anderson - humorist, radio personality, Gulfport, Miss.

Preparing for the Journey - Talmadge Smith, AMD, Brookhaven, Miss.

Seniors on Mission with God - Evelyn Williams, Newton, Miss.

• Northern Regional Rally (\$1 at the door/\$5 for lunch)

Thursday, August 28, at Blue Mountain College

Rally: Fairview Choir, Columbus

Bill Baker, former pastor at FBC, Clinton

BREAK-OUTS:

Fun Time with "CW" - Gary Jackson, "CW" character on

WFCA Radio, French Camp

Preparing for the Journey - Tom Crocker, LifeWay Consultant, Memphis, Tenn.

Seniors on Mission with God - Kay Cassibry, State WMU Director, MBCB

Must preregister for meal by August 18.

To register call Blue Mountain College at 662-685-4771.

Questions: Discipleship & Family Ministry, 601-292-3284, 1-800-748-1651, ext. 284

Men's Ministry State Leadership Training

August 8-9, Friday, 6 p.m. - Saturday, 11:30 a.m.

Central Hills Baptist Retreat, Kosciusko, Miss.

SPECIAL GUESTS:

Randy Creamer. Coordinator for Baptist Builders, NAMB

Rob Carr, Royal Ambassador Specialist, NAMB

RAs: Basic RAs, Strengthening Your RA Chapter, Mission Options for Youth, How to do Mission Education if Your Church Doesn't do RAs

Men: Nuts and Bolts of Men's Ministry, Using Creative Ideas to Reach Men, Baptist Builders: Reaching Men in Special Areas of Ministry, Disaster Relief, Lay Renewal

Cost: \$25 per person (includes meals, lodging and sessions)

Questions?

Contact Men's Ministry

Call: 601-292-3334

1-800-748-1651, ext. 334

E-mail: cwright@mbcb.org



[illegible][illegible][illegible]

	COOP. PROGRAM	OTHER	TOTAL
AGRICOLA	35,426.95	33,783.86	69,210.81
ARTON	22,278.90	10,043.32	32,322.22
BELLY	229.80	1,241.34	1,471.14
BIRCHDALE	229.80	2,348.89	2,578.69
BIRCHDALE	31,511.22	27,381.16	58,892.38
BIRCHDALE	1,338.43	2,471.64	3,810.07
BIRCHDALE	75.00	75.00	150.00
BIRCHDALE	4,091.12	5,814.83	9,905.95
BIRCHDALE	392.12	677.08	1,069.20
BIRCHDALE	33,833.00	32,602.00	66,435.00
BIRCHDALE	16,371.47	14,934.80	31,306.27
BIRCHDALE	4,166.00	1,000.00	5,166.00
Total	151,198.32	138,555.37	289,753.69
GOLDEN TRIANGLE			
ADATION	18,551.02	7,781.00	26,332.02
ADATION	1,000.00	40.00	1,040.00
ADATION	5,180.00	4,337.00	9,517.00
ADATION	1,875.33	1,500.00	3,375.33
ADATION	9,752.00	7,430.00	17,182.00
ADATION	7,574.00	548.00	8,122.00
ADATION	40,750.00	30,580.00	71,330.00
ADATION	19,281.43	2,501.33	21,782.76
ADATION	8,005.47	2,533.12	10,538.59
ADATION	948.38	195.00	1,143.38
ADATION	2,161.20	2,835.00	4,996.20
ADATION	18,835.88	5,280.27	24,116.15
ADATION	7,514.79	15,705.35	23,220.14
ADATION	19,270.39	6,581.99	25,852.38
ADATION	1,000.00	660.00	1,660.00
ADATION	169,996.33	94,527.48	264,523.81
ADATION	8,752.00	8,752.00	17,504.00
ADATION	4,868.85	8,752.72	13,621.57
ADATION	84,285.51	115,669.48	199,954.99
ADATION	88,929.29	6,881.38	95,810.67
ADATION	40,326.76	49,815.72	90,142.48
ADATION	6,082.76	7,116.00	13,198.76
ADATION	890.64	4,221.50	5,112.14
ADATION	6,833.00	1,621.00	8,454.00
ADATION	1,214.86	1,721.00	2,935.86
ADATION	2,526.00	1,721.00	4,247.00
ADATION	2,100.45	1,678.51	3,778.96
ADATION	15,580.00	4,093.00	19,673.00
ADATION	6,500.00	9,750.00	16,250.00
ADATION	2,141.48	9,750.00	11,891.48
ADATION	17,699.59	8,227.20	25,926.79
ADATION	18,019.70	15,941.86	33,961.56
ADATION	96.58	9,684.00	9,780.58
ADATION	31,016.13	26,366.00	57,382.13
ADATION	4,000.00	1,500.00	5,500.00
ADATION	1,976.44	3,141.11	5,117.55
ADATION	3,201.28	1,000.00	4,201.28
ADATION	22,518.67	2,300.00	24,818.67
ADATION	4,666.36	1,026.56	5,692.92
ADATION	26,497.00	6,922.40	33,419.40
ADATION	1,141.91	1,605.84	2,747.75
ADATION	4,199.15	1,088.83	5,287.98
ADATION	1,419.66	1,172.84	2,592.50
ADATION	6,354.12	2,850.86	9,204.98
ADATION	1,197.94	1,889.89	3,087.83
ADATION	1,197.94	9,849.32	11,047.26
ADATION	1,213.83	1,400.00	2,613.83
ADATION	18,162.25	10,142.09	28,304.34
Total	781,163.25	642,029.45	1,423,192.70
GREENE			
ANTIOCH	8,890.67	6,891.27	15,781.94
AYVA	3,315.15	248.77	3,563.92
CEGAR GROVE	10,488.93	8,927.26	19,416.19
COVENANT	3,000.00	1,264.29	4,264.29
EAST LAKESVILLE	11,882.26	9,250.00	21,132.26
EL MCCLAIN	10,743.59	12,292.59	23,036.18
EL SAND HILL	1,450.00	4,783.00	6,233.00
FELLOWSHIP	3,666.00	2,811.00	6,477.00
LESLY	1,255.13	1,000.00	2,255.13
NEW HOPE	1,255.13	3,042.57	4,297.70
NEW LIFE	2,982.82	982.19	3,965.01
PLAY	2,100.00	2,248.00	4,348.00
LEVEL	1,666.16	3,144.00	4,810.16
PLASANT HILL	1,666.16	3,144.00	4,810.16
SALEM	1,666.16	3,144.00	4,810.16
WEST SALEM	1,666.16	3,144.00	4,810.16
Total	79,652.73	92,530.55	172,183.28
GULF COAST			
AY VISTA	21,239.34		21,239.34
BAYOU ALLA FELLOWSHIP	31,600.00		31,600.00
BAYOU VIEW	31,600.00	18,099.00	49,699.00
BAYOU	1,037.50	899.92	1,937.42
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BAYOU	1,037.50	899.92	1,937.42
BAYOU	1,037.50	899.9	

	COOP. PROGRAM	OTHER	TOTAL
Total	40,764.13	48,228.85	88,992.98
ITAWAMBA			
ANTIOCH	1,613.99	1,000.00	2,613.99
BETHANY	300.00		300.00
CALVARY	2,581.24	518.90	3,099.21
DECEMBER	5,261.77	3,261.77	8,523.54
EVERGREEN	568.11	2,000.00	2,568.11
FAITH		309.46	309.46
FC FLATTON	20,456.48	10,792.50	30,248.98
GRACELAND	1,255.96	2,012.52	3,268.48
LAUREL	1,000.00	3,812.00	4,812.00
MONTESSA VIEW	2,200.08	2,295.32	4,495.40
NEW HOME	951.00	2,086.06	3,037.06
NEW LAR SPRINGS	1,110.02	574.00	1,684.02
PROVIDENCE	1,540.40	5,260.00	6,800.40
SHILOH	1,200.00	9,200.13	10,400.13
TRINITY	17,502.46	9,200.13	26,702.59
Total	57,989.38	48,052.23	106,041.61
JACKSON			
BELL FOUNTAIN HGTS	19,422.80	25,620.97	45,043.77
BELL FOUNTAIN	9,263.39	2,222.31	11,485.70
CALVARY	6,952.41	2,222.31	9,174.72
CAMBRIDGE	2,122.21	2,222.31	4,344.52
EAST MOSS POINT	4,182.03	7,702.01	11,884.04
ASTORIA	1,011.00	3,261.77	4,272.77
EMMANUEL	1,011.00	3,261.77	4,272.77
FC ITAWAMBA	20,076.06	15,019.91	35,095.97
FC CAUTIER	4,921.74	5,713.70	10,635.44
FC HELENA	8,711.00	9,954.37	18,665.37
FC MOSS POINT	13,181.41	20,883.05	34,064.46
FC NEW SPRINGS	2,461.24	2,461.24	4,922.48
FC ORANGE GROVE	246.12	2,284.93	2,531.05
FC PASCAGOULA	66,611.24	27,735.96	94,347.20
FC PINE LAKE	54,212.57	56,489.20	110,701.77
PORT BAYOU	1,571.91	869.47	2,441.38
FC HAMIL CREEK	2,881.00	2,250.00	5,131.00
FC HAMIL CREEK	2,881.00	2,250.00	5,131.00
FREEDOM CHRISTIAN FRSH	1,712.10	2,049.10	3,761.20
GRACE CHURCH G COAST	2,772.23	300.00	3,072.23
GRACELAND	2,772.23	5,131.72	7,903.95
HURLEY	11,281.46	21,511.96	32,793.42
INDIAN AVENUE	4,449.00	4,274.00	8,723.00
KREOLE AVE	1,645.00	3,944.00	5,589.00
LEMOYNE BLVD	12,534.03	7,910.57	20,444.60
LILLY ORCHARD	13,080.00	1,268.63	14,348.63
MCCLELLAN BLVD	1,966.41	1,456.00	3,422.41
MCCLELLAN ROAD	2,507.82	1,562.24	4,070.06
MIDWAY	3,129.45	5,139.45	8,268.90
PARWAY	2,131.11	3,935.28	6,066.39
PINE LAKE	4,449.00	455.00	4,904.00
PROVIDENCE	1,350.00	2,250.00	3,600.00
SHILOH HILLS	5,966.64	11,112.82	17,079.46
RED CREEK UNION	7,089.89	5,848.52	12,938.41
ROCKDALE HEIGHTS	1,507.51	8,411.87	9,919.38
RIVERSIDE	1,507.51	8,411.87	9,919.38
TEMPLE	4,197.24	24,545.48	28,742.72
WADE	4,197.24	24,545.48	28,742.72
WOODHAVEN	4,197.24	24,545.48	28,742.72
Total	430,302.91	468,466.29	898,769.20
JASPER			
ANTIOCH	3,662.24	2,597.00	6,259.24
RAY SPRINGS	34,549.96	75,920.07	110,470.03
BETHANY	1,037.00	1,054.30	2,091.30
CALVARY	966.62	2,074.62	3,041.24
DECEMBER	13,272.31	14,500.52	27,772.83
FAITH	1,200.00	930.00	2,130.00
FAIR RIDGE	568.00	640.00	1,208.00
FC MOSS	939.00	1,285.96	2,224.96
FC ROSE HILL	568.00	2,200.00	2,768.00
HEIDELBERG	1,964.55	2,200.00	4,164.55
LAKE COMO	2,250.36	2,108.90	4,359.26
LIBERTY	1,000.00	315.00	1,315.00
LOUN	2,194.34	2,993.72	5,188.06
MCINTOSH	1,751.16	6,458.00	8,209.16
NEW BEGINNINGS	2,792.20	1,863.44	4,655.64
NEW LONSHIP	642.75	300.00	942.75

[illegible]

1. **William Carey University (WCU)** in Hattiesburg will hold three graduation ceremonies on Aug. 2 in Smith Auditorium. Prentiss G. Harrell, circuit judge for the 15th judicial district, will speak at the 9:30 a.m. ceremony for graduate degrees. Martha Dunagin Saunders, president of the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, will speak at the 1 p.m. ceremony for undergraduate degrees. Stan Harris, first assistant U.S. attorney for the southern district of Mississippi, will speak at the 4 p.m. ceremony for graduate and undergraduate coast campus degrees. Graduates of the WCU School of Nursing in New Orleans will receive degrees on Aug. 1 at 7 p.m. in Leavell Chapel on the campus of New Orleans Seminary in New Orleans. Michael Murphy, founding dean of the WCU School of Osteopathy, will speak. (601) 318-6192.

CLASSIFIED ADS

COME SEE DON PIPER, AUTHOR OF 90 Minutes in Heaven, at North Greenwood Baptist Church, Greenwood, Miss. Tuesday, July 29 & Wednesday, July 30, at 7 p.m. each evening. Nursery will be provided. For information, call 662-453-2801, 615 Grand Blvd, Greenwood, Miss.

SEBREN'S SIDING, JACKSON, Christian owned. All home improvements, vinyl siding, windows, metal and shingle roofs, patio covers, screen and glass rooms. 601-992-2092, Don & Rita Sebrén, owners.

AFFORDABLE BEACHFRONT & beachside vacation condos. Gulf Shores and Orange Beach, Alabama. Best value on the beach! Lowest Prices! Over 50 top quality condos! Your satisfaction is our top priority, owned & operated by christian family since 1988. 205-556-0368 or 205-752-1231, www.gulfshorescondos.com.

THE LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTIAN Beach Retreat and Conference Center, Orange Beach, Alabama. Directly on the Gulf of Mexico. Ideal for church beach retreats. From 10 to 150 people, \$30 per night per person. A ministry of Romar Beach Baptist Church. Call Don at 251-752-2366.

REASONABLY PRICED INSURANCE: Medicare supplements, major medical, & small group health insurance plans available for individuals & churches. Call Carra Turner 662 231-4487 for rates or visit www.turnerinsuranceonline.com.

CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY, free estimates. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss., phone 601-776-6617.

STAINED GLASSWORKS, INC., SERVING MS & AL since 1992. Call 800-605-2970.

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NATIONAL QUARTET CONVENTION September 10-14 Louisville, Kentucky- Gaithers, Signature Sound, Triumphant and dozens more, singing News Awards, 5 days 4 nights \$795.00 pp/dbl. All costs included. Purpose Driven Tours 601-371-8733.

STAINED GLASS: NEW WINDOWS and repairs. Hopper Stained Glass, Jackson, 877-477-1899.

SPECIAL MUSIC FOR ANY CHURCH activity, program or service. Also music and/or pulpit supply. Contact

music evangelist, Ron Hamilton at 225-328-5961 or 601-583-3905.

PRESCHOOL MINISTER: FBC, Clarksville, Tenn., seeks a full-time minister to preschool to plan and coordinate a comprehensive ministry to preschool children and their families. Please send resumes to Ron Moore, 435 Madison Street, Clarksville, TN 37040.

HUNTING RETREAT: PERFECT FOR church or individual. Loaded w/deer and turkey, 110+/- acres w/1000 sq. ft house, 30 min. from Jackson in Hinds Co. Hardwoods, creeks & open fields, \$2,900 per acre, Nick Clark, R.E., 601-317-2536.

FOR RENT, FORT WALTON BEACH - Destin Florida, Gulf Front 2 Bedroom condominium. Lots of Amenities Special Rate By Owner call Lucy 770-831-3651 or SGLucy@wmconnect.com.

VISIT THE MAJESTIC ALPS OF GERMANY, Austria, and Switzerland June 21-July 1, 2010 (only one weekend). See the world famous Passion Play of Oberammergau. Contact Rev. Bill Stanford 601-924-3747 for a brochure.

CONCRETE SLABS. WESTBROOK Construction, specializing in form and finishing concrete for residential and commercial jobs; licensed, bonded; church discounts offered. Call 601-842-9976 or 601-213-8026 for free estimate.

GULF SHORES VACATION HOME: August Special \$399/wk. September Special \$299/wk. incl. cleaning fees. Call 225-241-5667 or visit www.gsfamilyretreat.com.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR YOUTH AND Family Ministry. FBC, Arkadelphia, Arkansas, is receiving resumes for this position through August 15, 2008. The position description can be viewed at the website: www.fbcark.org. Resumes and letters of introduction can be emailed to fbca1@iocc.com or mailed to FBC, 623 Pine Street, Arkadelphia, Arkansas 71923.

DISCOUNT BAPTISTRIES & STEEPLES. Baptist murals, heaters, lighting, seating, wall crosses, pew cushions, krinklgas, carpet, signs. Church Supply Company of Texas, 800-728-8291.

CABIN IN GATLINBURG FOR RENT: 2 bedrm 2 bath, full kitchen, great view of National Park, \$95.00/night. Call for information 281-855-4469 or 832-92a2-0401/0141. Email pdiw4760@att.net.

NORRIS BOOKBINDING COMPANY, Inc., old Bibles rebound. Also, church bulletins and hymnals. For more information call 662 453-7424 or fax us at 662 455-6743.

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — The North American Mission Board (NAMB) has appointed David Meacham to the newly created position of senior strategist for associations. Prior to his new appointment, Meacham served as NAMB's senior strategist for church planting.

The appointment of Meacham, a former Arkansas associational missions director, to the newly-created job follows a NAMB-initiated "think tank" meeting in April during which NAMB/associational relations was discussed and redefined. The session was attended by NAMB representatives, associational missionaries, several state executive directors and state directors of missions.

With the attendees representing a cross-section of younger, older, metro and rural elements of the Southern Baptist Convention, the entire day was spent praying, visioning and planning in an open dialogue on how NAMB and the associations could better team together to reach North America for Christ.

NAMB President Jeff Hammond said with Meacham in the new post, associations will have a higher profile as NAMB assists Southern Baptists in their task of fulfilling the Great

Commission in the United States, Canada, and their territories via NAMB's strategy of sharing Christ, starting churches and sending missionaries in cooperation with its Acts 1:8 partners — state conventions, local associations and churches.

"Every one of NAMB's Acts 1:8 partners plays a vital role in fulfilling the Great Commission on this continent," Hammond said. "And that's why NAMB is ensuring that providing support to all 1,200 Southern Baptist associations continues to have a high priority."

Hammond called Meacham a "bridge-builder who can forge relationships across generations which could lead to more effective partnerships for the evangelization of North America."

Russell Cook, director of missions for Pottawatomie-Lincoln Baptist Association in Oklahoma and immediate past president of the Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Directors of Missions (SBCADOM), called Hammond's decision "something that has been needed. I think this is a very good thing. I

know Geoff well enough to know he has a heart for associations, so his decision doesn't surprise me."

Sid Hopkins, an associational director of missions with the Gwinnett Metro Baptist Association in Georgia and national chairman of the Network of Baptist Associations (NOBA), said, "I'm very excited about an excellent decision by NAMB leadership. This sends a great message that the North American Mission Board takes associations very seriously and wants to work hand-in-hand to get out the Gospel."

"I appreciate David's knowledge and expertise," Hopkins added. "Also, having interacted personally with David, I appreciate his heart to serve associations as we work in partnership to provide ongoing training and resources for the local church."

Meacham said he is looking forward to assisting associations in the areas of evangelism, church planting and missions, especially with the added challenge of NAMB's recently announced national evangelism initiative, "GPS - God's Plan for Sharing."

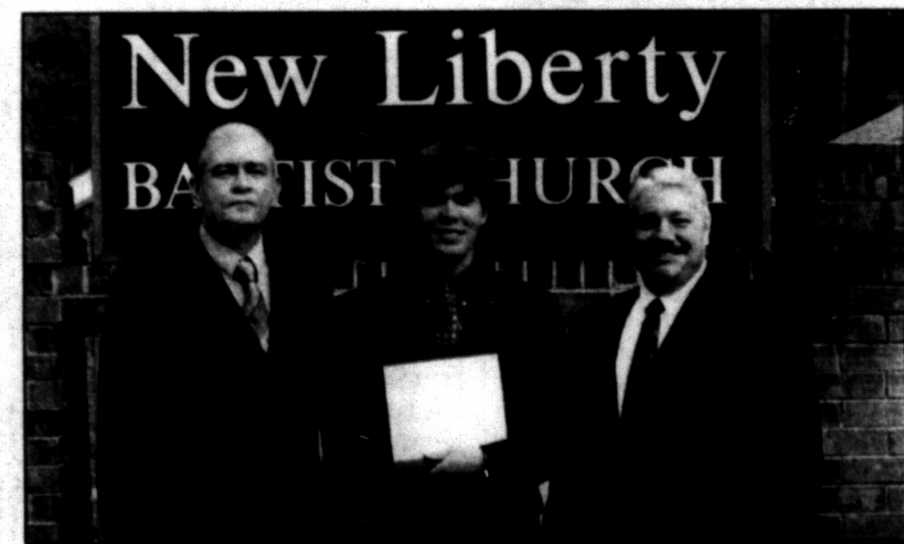
STAFF CHANGES

1. **New Liberty Church, Tishomingo Association,** ordained Seth Kennedy (center) to the Gospel ministry on July 13. Pictured with Kennedy are his father Edwin Kennedy (left), pastor of New Liberty Church, Tishomingo Association, and Ron Norvell, pastor of New Salem Church, Tishomingo Association, where Seth Kennedy will serve as youth minister.



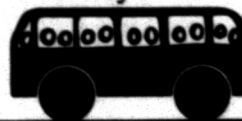
2. **Neshoba Association** has called Glenn Jackson as associational missions director. He previously served as minister of education and administration at Poplar Springs Drive Church, Meridian.
3. **Buddy McElroy** has begun a new music ministry called Colossians 3:16 ministries. He is a published author and has taught music for 12 years for the New Orleans Seminary extension program. He may be contacted at buddymcelroy@bellsouth.net. Telephone: (601) 679-1887.

3. McElroy



1. Seth Kennedy ordained

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MS POSITIONS

FULL-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC. Parkview Baptist Church, Greenville, Miss., is seeking a full-time minister of music. Please send resume to personnel committee, 712 McAllister St., Greenville, MS 38701, or email to parkviewp@bellsouth.net.

LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH IN Flowood, one of the fastest growing cities in MS desires to fill the positions of Music, Education and Youth. Please send resume to Search Committee, 5199 Lakeland Dr., Flowood, MS 39232. Fax 601-992-4242 or email office@lbcflowood.org.

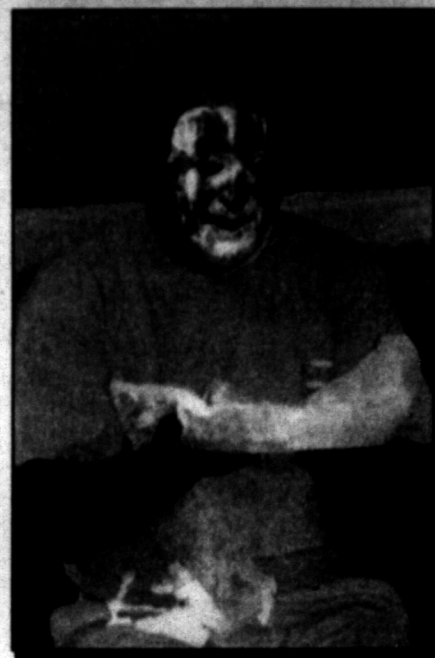
IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH IN Vicksburg, Miss., seeking individual for full-time Minister of Music. Please send resume to Immanuel Baptist Church, attn: personnel committee, 6949 Hwy 61 South, Vicksburg, MS 39180. Or email to IBC_personnel@yahoo.com or contact Michael Bull at 601-218-5325.

PELAHATCHIE BAPTIST CHURCH IS seeking a part-time Minister of Music for Worship Services, Adult, youth, and children's choirs. Please forward resume to the Pelahatchie Baptist Church, search committee, P O Box 876, Pelahatchie, MS 39145, attn: Due McKinlon. Email: due@rankincounty.org.

REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

- Lucien Church, Lucien:** Revival, July 20-23. Sun., 11 a.m. followed by fellowship meal and evening service 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Tim Allred, speaker; Joy Pickering and Lynn Chapman, music; Owen King, pastor.
- Springfield Church, Natchez:** Homecoming, July 27; Sunday School 9:45 a.m.; worship 11 a.m. followed by covered dish luncheon. Joe Hill, speaker.
- Springdale Church, Attala Association:** Homecoming, July 27; 10 a.m.; Dan West, speaker; Megan Walters, music. James Culpepper, pastor. (662) 289-6592.
- Ebenezer Church, Holmes Association:** Homecoming, July 27; 10 a.m.; James Pugh, speaker; Skipper Maxwell, music; Billy Barron, pastor. (601) 259-0140.
- County Line Church, Dossville:** Homecoming, July 27. Danny Sephton, speaker. New Born group, music. Lunch at noon. (662) 289-5398.
- McAdams Church, McAdams:** Revival, July 27-30; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m. Gene Richardson, speaker; Michelle Jones, music; James Young, pastor.
- Baxterville Church, Lumberton:** Revival, July 27-Aug. 1; Sun., 11 a.m. followed by dinner on the grounds; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Valton Douglas, speaker; Ron Hamilton, music; Raymond Parkin, pastor. (601) 796-4788.
- Calvary Church, Silver Creek:** Revival, July 27-30. Brent Benson, speaker. Eric Benson, music; Tim Robertson, pastor.
- Sapa Church, Eupora:** Revival, July 27-30; Sun., 11 a.m. followed by lunch. 7 p.m. nightly; Don Parrish, speaker; Steve and Becky Carver, music; Harvey Overstreet, pastor. (662) 262-7188.
- White Oak Church, Smith Association:** Revival, July 27-30; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m. Mark Byrd, speaker; Stan and Cissi Majure, music.
- New Hope Church, Sumrall:** Revival, July 27-Aug. 1; Sun. 11 a.m. followed by lunch and afternoon services at 1:15 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Mickey Steele, speaker; Daniel Lee, music.
- West Church, West:** Homecoming, August 3; 11 a.m.; James Culpepper, speaker; James Burrell, pastor.
- First Church, Batesville:** Revival, July 27-Aug. 1; Sun., 8:15 a.m., 10:45 a.m., and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., noon and 7 p.m.; Don Taylor, speaker; Perry Robbins; Ronnie Cottingham, music. (662) 563-7655.
- Rocky Springs Church, Yazoo Association:** 150-year Homecoming and Revival. Services, Aug. 1-2 at 7 p.m.; Homecoming Aug. 3 at 11 a.m. followed by dinner on the grounds; John Yates, speaker. (662) 746-6450.
- Gillsburg Church, Osyka:** 125th anniversary celebration, Aug. 3; Worship service 10 a.m. followed by dinner on the grounds; mini-concert 1 p.m.; birthday party, 2:15 p.m.; Ordination service 3 p.m.
- Sunrise Church, Petal:** Homecoming, Aug. 3; 11 a.m. followed by dinner on the grounds. Jim Futral, speaker; Gerald Buckley, pastor. (601) 584-7970.
- Calvary Church, Canton:** Revival, Aug. 3-6; Sun., 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Ben James, speaker; Scott Jones, music; Tom Rayburn, pastor.
- Pleasant Hill Church, New Hebron:** Revival, Aug. 3-6; Sun. 11 a.m. followed by lunch. Sun.-Wed. 7 p.m. Johnny Sykes, speaker; Ronnie Cottingham, music; Philip Douglas, pastor.
- Darlove Church, Hollandale:** Homecoming, Aug. 3.
- Holcomb Church, Holcomb:** Revival, Aug. 3-6; Sun., Sunday School 10 a.m. followed by worship and covered dish lunch, and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; David Ford, speaker; Sandy Land, music; Bob Johnson, pastor. (662) 614-9155.
- Ogden Church, Benton:** Revival, Aug. 3-6. Sun., 10:30 a.m. followed by dinner on the grounds; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Scotty McDowell, speaker.
- Brush Creek Church, Walnut:** Revival, Aug. 3-8; Sun., regular time; Mon.-Friday 7 p.m.; George DeRousse, speaker. Carroll Talley, pastor.
- Society Hill, Oakvale:** Homecoming Revival, Aug. 3-8. Sun., 11 a.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m. Darel Daniels, speaker. (601) 792-2720.
- Big Springs Church, Brookhaven:** Homecoming, August 10; 11 a.m. followed by lunch.
- Fellowship Church, Ellisville:** Homecoming, Aug. 10; Sunday School 9 a.m.; worship service 10 a.m.; Hearts Desire singing group 11 a.m. followed by dinner on the grounds. Ken Cooper, speaker; Joey McGill, music.
- Center Hill Church, Hamilton:** Revival, Aug. 10-13. Sun., Sunday School 9 a.m., worship 11 a.m., evening worship 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Tommy Whaley, speaker; Jasper Butler, music. Terry Edwards, pastor.
- Calvary Church, Silver Creek:** Homecoming, August 17; Bible study 9:30 a.m.; worship 10:30 a.m. followed by lunch. Leon Wallace, speaker; Tim Robertson, pastor.
- Arkadelphia Church, Bailey:** 150th anniversary celebration, Aug. 17; 10:30 a.m. worship service followed by fellowship luncheon.
- Shiloh Church, Mantachie:** Homecoming, Aug. 17; 10:30 a.m. followed by lunch and singing by The Masters Quartet. (662) 282-7248. Henry Jenkins, pastor.
- Slayden Church, Lamar:** Revival, Aug. 17-20; Jimmy Porter, speaker; Steve and Becky Carver, music; David Bishop, pastor.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOLS



2. Balint, First Church Plantersville

- Lake Como Church, Bay Springs,** recently held Vacation Bible School. Shown are participants.
- The children of **First Church, Plantersville,** raised \$250 for World Changers during their recent Vacation Bible School. Pictured is pastor Danny Balint receiving a pie in the face for reaching the giving goal.
- Arkabutla Church, Arkabutla,** set a record for participants during their recent Vacation Bible School. Pictured are children participating in a balloon release.



1. Lake Como Church VBS



3. Arkabutla Church VBS

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DON PIPER

author of 90 Minutes in Heaven
will be at
North Greenwood Baptist Church

Tuesday, July 29th and Wednesday, July 30th.
The time will be 7:00 p.m. each evening.

Nursery will be provided. Book signing will follow each evening.
615 Grand Boulevard, Greenwood, Miss.
For more information, call 662-453-2801.
Love offering to be received.

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

How Heavenly is Heaven?

Revelation 21:1-5, 22-27; 22:1-5

By Janice H. Fortenberry

It was March 20, 1990, and we had anticipated the birth of our first child with joy and excitement. Because the baby hadn't moved in the past 24 hours, I went first to the doctor's office and then to the delivery room. I watched as they connected the fetal monitor and saw with utter and complete horror that the line on the monitor was flat. The baby was dead.

The grief that gripped my body was indescribable. My heart was broken, I was utterly defeated and I felt as if I were slipping over an edge. The reality of that moment was more than I could bear.

Then a miracle happened. Calm came over me that went

from one end of my body to the other. One minute I was in such anguish I didn't think I could stand it. The next thing I knew I was at peace. I asked the nurse if she had put medication in my IV but she said no, that I had been praying.

I wasn't conscious of praying but I will never forget the peace that came over me. God's presence was so real that He might as well have been sitting right there next to me on that gurney.

People have different concepts of what heaven will be like. Some see it as our sitting on clouds playing harps. Some focus on the precious metals making up the New Jerusalem. Some have no notion at all; they just want to get there. As for me, I saw a glimpse of Heaven that



Fortenberry

day in delivery. I was in God's presence and I can't wait to experience that intimacy with Him every minute throughout eternity.

John mentions over 50 visions in Revelation, either something he saw or a vision explained to him by an angel. Revelation 21:1-2, the last vision of the book, offers hope for those who are the bride of Christ. Isaiah had a similar vision some 700 years before. (See Isa. 65: 17-25 and Isa. 66:22-23).

John saw a new heaven and a new earth. (21:1-5). Many scholars believe that the universe as we know it will be destroyed by God in order to create a new order. After all, our present universe is not designed for eternity time. The sun, for instance, is a star that's burning out! Scientists have known since the early 20th century that the universe is expanding, resulting in less density and more darkness. There are 19 explicit mentions of

the "Day of the Lord" in the Old Testament and four in the New Testament and most of them mention darkness. (See Mark 13:24, for example)

But don't worry, we won't need natural light. We will be illuminated in the New Jerusalem by the very light of God Almighty. "The glory of God made the city bright." (Rev. 21:11 CEV)

Now where exactly will heaven be? Surprisingly, it will be right here on the new earth and it will be glorious (21:22-27). In 21:10, John describes being led to a high mountain where he saw the New Jerusalem coming down from God in heaven. The city, scholars point out, will be 1,400 miles cubed with 12 gates on each side representing the 12 tribes of Israel. The city will rest on 12 foundation stones, each 700 square feet and made of a single precious stone bearing the names of the 12 apostles.

The gates, always open since no evil will be allowed to enter, will be of a single perfect pearl towering some 1,400 feet high.

And the best part of the New Jerusalem? God himself will dwell in it, eliminating the need for a temple (21:22, 7:15).

Through the middle of this city will flow the river of life. It will have no hydrological source but will flow from the throne of God, symbolizing the continual flow of eternal life (21:1-5). The healing leaves mentioned in verse 2 from the tree of life show the complete absence of any physical or spiritual want.

Revelation is a conclusion of the story begun in Genesis. The curse that separated man from God in the Garden of Eden will be lifted. We will live in perfect harmony with our Creator and with the Lamb. I wish I could be impressed by streets of gold but I'm not. I hunger for the intimate communion with God. I got a taste of it that fateful day in March and I can't wait to experience it for all eternity.

Fortenberry is a member of First Church, McComb.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Jerusalem: Facing Conflict

Acts 15:1-2, 6-15, 22-23a (ends "them"), 27-28

By W. Wayne VanHorn

In last week's lesson we followed the work of Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey, taking us from Antioch in Syria, to the island of Cyprus, and then to the region we know today as central Turkey. Their success, particularly in bringing Gentiles into the church, resulted in inevitable conflict with the predominately Jewish Christian believers in Jerusalem. This lesson addresses conflict among Christians and shows ways to resolve such conflict, assuming all parties are willing to seek positive results.

1. Agree to Resolve the Problem (Acts 15:1-2)

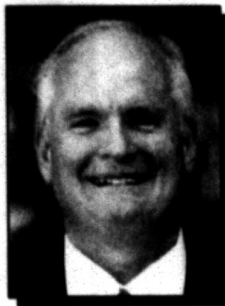
Conflict first arose in the church in Antioch when Jewish Christians from Jerusalem, who had been taught in the traditions of Judaism, came to Antioch and insisted that the Gentile converts could not be saved until they were circumcised according to the Law of Moses. These Jewish

Christians meant well and sincerely believed circumcision was to be as much a sign of the new covenant as it had been of the old.

Their insistence that Gentile believers had to be circumcised in order to be saved brought them "into sharp dispute and debate" with Paul and Barnabas (Acts 15:2; NIV). The sharp dispute refers to arguing and discord; the debate refers to discussion over controversial issues. Thus sincere Christians, Jewish and Gentile, found themselves embroiled in conflict over issues of salvation. The believers came up with a very logical decision; they would send Paul, Barnabas, and several other brothers, to Jerusalem to settle the matter with the Apostles and elders.

2. Discuss the Issues (Acts 15:6-12)

In Jerusalem, Paul and Barnabas met with the apostles and elders to look into the matter that caused so much dissension in Antioch. Peter



VanHorn

took the lead in reminding the assembly how God had spoken the word through him to the Gentiles. He also reminded them how God had verified His desire for Gentiles to be welcomed into the Christian family by giving them the

Holy Spirit just as he had to Jewish believers (Acts 15:8). Peter's argument was simple and direct; from God's perspective there was no difference between Jews and Gentiles in the matter of salvation (Acts 15:9). Peter's question, "Why do you try to test God...?" changed the course of the conversation. Instead of a dispute as to whether Gentiles had to become good Jews before they could become Christians, the assembly was now confronted with whether they wanted to stand in the way of God's will to welcome Gentiles into the church. Peter then put salvation on a firm theological base; salvation was through the grace of the Lord for those whose hearts had been purified by faith

(Acts 15:9-11). After Peter spoke, the hushed assembly listened to Barnabas and Paul as they gave testimonies about the miracles and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles. Thus in the mouths of two or more witnesses the truth was established (Deut. 19:15b).

3. Look to the Scriptures (Acts 15:13-15)

James addressed the assembly after Peter, Barnabas, and Paul. James based his comments on God's dealings with the Gentiles through the lead apostle Peter when he led Cornelius and his household to faith. He also based his comments on the Lord's promise found in Amos 9:11-12. Thus those present at the assembly had three key indicators of God's will in the matter of welcoming Gentiles into the Christian family: Cornelius' conversion as expressed by Peter; the prophet Amos' record of God's inclusion of the Gentiles; and Barnabas's and Paul's testimonies regarding the miraculous signs and wonders God was doing among the Gentiles. Of these three key indicators, the

Scriptures stood as the ancient authority by which the current experiences were analyzed. Christians should be reminded to day that Scripture provides the key to understanding experience and not the other way around.

4. Reach a Consensus (Acts 15:22-23a, 27-28)

When James finished, the course of action was clear to the assembly. The Gentiles would indeed be welcomed into the Christian family without the burden of first being circumcised. Gentiles could be saved without first becoming practicing Jews, a giant step in the theology of the early Church. To ensure that the message was conveyed clearly to the Antioch church, Judas and Silas, chief men among the Jerusalem believers, were sent to Antioch along with Paul and Barnabas. Additionally, the consensus judgment was written down for all to read. By following these same steps, believers today can resolve conflict in ways that will produce positive results.

VanHorn is dean of the School of Christian Studies & the Arts at Mississippi College and a member of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) type-written, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will

be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the **who, what, when, where** details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be

clear, sharp, and well-lighted. **Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.**

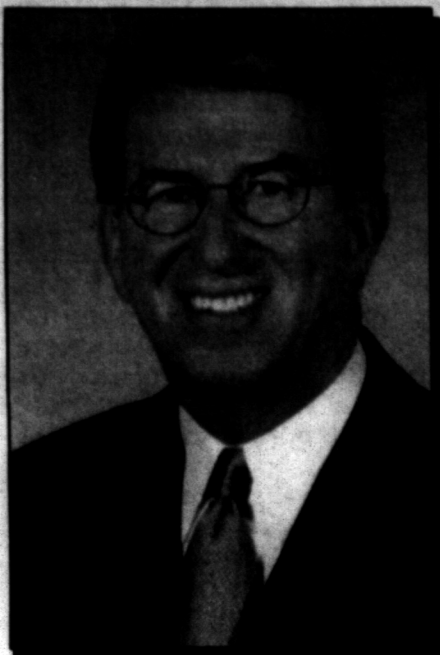
All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

THE BAPTIST
Record

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. O'Brien

1. McComb native and Mississippi College graduate J. Randall O'Brien has been named president of Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tn. Prior to his selection, he served as executive vice-president and provost at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. Carson-Newman College is affiliated with the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

2. Cleary Church, Florence, will host a satellite simulcast of best-selling LifeWay Christian Resources author and speaker Beth Moore from 6:30 p.m. on Aug. 1 and 8:30 a.m.-noon on August 2. For

ticket information and other details, contact Nancy Grantham at (601) 845-2020, ext. 301. E-mail: media@clearybaptist.org.

3. A total of 13 children from First Church, Soso, attended CentriKids Camp June 23-27 at Mississippi College in Clinton. Pictured are participants.

4. North Greenwood Church, Greenwood, will host Dan Piper, author of 90 Minutes in Heaven, on July 29 and July 30 at 7 p.m. each night. Nursery will be provided. Love offering will be received. (662) 453-2801.

5. New Liberty Church, Tishomingo Association, recently attended camp at Earl Trent Assembly in Florence, AL. With four professions of faith, the group came home a 100% Christian family. Edwin Kennedy, pastor.

6. The first meeting of the Jasper County Ministers Mates was held recently at Lake Como Church, Bay Springs. Pictured are participants.

7. Bethsaida Church, Philadelphia, held groundbreaking ceremonies July 9 for the new family life center. Pictured are participants.

8. Smith Association, Raleigh, sent a mission team to Ohio June 21-28 to conduct Upward basketball camps and servant evangelism with Bridge Church in Perry. Churches represented on the team were Mize, Mt. Zion, Union, and White Oak.

9. Members of Ingomar Church, Ingomar, recently went on a mission trip to assist with construction and lead Vacation Bible School for House of Hope ministry. Pictured are participants with the children of House of Hope.

10. First Church, Batesville, will host a youth concert featuring Thalon on July 26 at 6:30 p.m. (662) 563-7655. For more information on Thalon, visit www.myspace.com/thalon.

11. Bluff Springs Church of Magnolia, held its Vacation Bible school on June 2-6. The commencement was June 8th.



The Baptist Record
P.O. Box 530
Jackson, MS 39205



7. Bethsaida Church, Philadelphia



8. Smith Association mission team



9. Ingomar Church mission trip



11. Bluff Springs, Magnolia



3. First Church, Soso CentriKids



5. New Liberty Church camp attendees



6. Jasper County Ministers Mates